



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

NEWS RELEASE

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Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Come celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery (NFH) and the grand opening of the new egg isolation building on August 26 at 10 a.m. The celebration will take place at the hatchery, which is located on the Warm Springs Reservation.

Congressman Greg Walden will be the keynote speaker. Other speakers include Olney Patt Jr., Executive Director of the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission, and Former Oregon Governor Vic Atiyeh.

Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery was established in 1966 and officially began operations on August 26, 1978, to stock Reservation waters with salmon and trout. The hatchery is located next to the Warm Springs River, a tributary of the Deschutes River, which flows into the Columbia. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funds this hatchery and cooperatively manages it with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery is one of the first facilities to balance a program of hatchery production while maintaining abundant, self-sustaining runs of all naturally occurring species in the Warm Springs River watershed. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon initiated the program 25 years ago with native fish from the Warm Springs River.

Our goals are to cooperatively manage hatchery operations, to provide harvest opportunities and to protect wild fish populations and their inherent genetic resources. The monitoring and management of Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery demonstrates a sustainable program, integrating the need for both harvest and wild fish conservation.

Significant actions for 2002-2006 hatchery operations include mass marking of released fish for selective fisheries and brood stock management, selecting brood stock to mimic wild fish run timing, incorporating wild fish in the hatchery brood stock using a sliding scale, limiting the number of hatchery fish allowed to spawn naturally, and operating an automated passage system for returning adults to reduce handling of wild fish.

Editor's Note: Media tour and interviews will be available immediately following the celebration. For directions and information visit: <http://warmspringshatchery.fws.gov/>